

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 21, 2000

Claims 1-83 are pending in the above-identified Application and are subject to restriction requirement under 35 USC §121.

The undersigned appreciates the courtesy extended by Examiner Tran in her telephone call on October 25, 2000, as a result of which Applicant understands the rationale for restricting to one of two inventions, relating respectively to particulate compositions (Group II) and to tablet and capsule compositions (Group I). As mentioned in that telephone call, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner in her allocation of claims to these two Groups and proposes the following revised allocation:

- I. Claims 11-50 and 76-83, drawn to compositions having the drug (celecoxib) in discrete solid dose units such as tablets or capsules, and to methods of preparing such compositions.
- II. Claims 1-10 and 51-75, drawn to compositions having the drug in particulate form, without requiring the particles be present in discrete solid dose units such as tablets or capsules, and to methods of use thereof.

It will be recognized that many of the claims in Group II are generic to particulate dosage forms that may or may not be discrete solid dose units such as tablets or capsules, and that such claims embrace subject matter more particularly pointed out in claims of Group I.

Applicant hereby elects without traverse to restrict the present Application to the invention embodied in Claims 11-50 and 76-83.

The Office Action further requires Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

Applicant hereby elects without traverse the species of the elected invention wherein:

- (a) the discrete solid dose units are tablets or capsules;
- (b) the composition comprises ingredients in the amounts set forth in Claim 42; and
- (c) the celecoxib particles have a  $D_{90}$  particle size of less than 25  $\mu\text{m}$  in accordance with Claim 80.

The following claims of the presently elected invention are readable on or embraced by this species: Claims 11-50 and 76-83.

Respectfully submitted,

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